



It's Broke and I'm Broke! **Percussion Care and Maintenance**

Saturday, November 5th, 2011

OMEA's PRIMO '11 @ Deerhurst Resort, Huntsville, ON



Snare Drum

How to Change and Tune Heads

- top head to an 'A', bottom head slightly tighter (larger drum - 6.5 - tune to F - G)
- adjusting snare tension, make sure crisp response at quiet dynamics and sound doesn't spread too much at loud dynamics
- medium-thin heads, make sure seated properly
- apply a drop or two of light machine oil or very small amount of vaseline when putting lugs in
- apply tension evenly
- muffling/dampening with moon-gels, sound rings, credit cards etc., tape?
- drum dial

Bass Drum

- 32" drum or larger - a suspended stand gives a more free sound than a cradle stand
- bottom-head tuned to a minor 2nd or minor 3rd above playing head, depending on the size of the drum
- plastic or Fibreskyn¹ heads most durable for schools
- similar care to snare drum lugs, even tension, etc..
- small towel clipped on rim to dampen

Cymbals & Stands

- put sleeves and felts on all cymbal stands - it is easy to buy replacements,
- in a pinch wrap tape around the stand where cymbal will sit - surgical tubing also works well
- 18" suspended cymbal is a good standard (drum set crash or specific suspended)
- 18-19" crash cymbals (German, French or Viennese) - German thickest and darkest to Viennese being the thinnest and brightest - cymbals labeled 'Band' or 'Orchestral' typically fall into one of these categories, but don't have as specific a sound

Timpani

- See *Woodshed Percussion Handout*

Triangle Clips & Beaters

- can be purchased through companies such as Pearl
- cheaper option: purchase clips at hardware store and drill two holes, use two strands of fishing line to hang (safety net)

Tambourines

- replacement heads can be purchased through their respective companies or you can send your tambourine to them and they will replace it for you
- tape or moleskin under head to dampen/muffle

Sticks/Mallets

- a proper mallet/stick bag is ideal to keep everything together and clean
- keep the plastic bags that mallets come in to prevent dirt and grime eating away at the mallet head - especially for timpani mallets
- cheaper option: sandwich baggies over the heads work well to keep the mallets clean

¹ Made by Remo Drumheads

